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Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department

Secretary

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Submission No. 26.2
Date Received

Dr Nicholas Horne *NH*
Inquiry Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee
on Legal and Constitutional Affairs
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Horne

Reference: Harmonisation of Legal Systems – Hansard Evidence

I refer to the Committee's reference on the Harmonisation of Legal Systems and the appearance by representatives of the Attorney-General's Department at the Committee's hearings on 21 March 2006.

I wish to advise the Committee that the statement made by Ms Joan Sheedy on page 39 of the Hansard transcript about Australia negotiating an intellectual property (IP) chapter in the Australia-ASEAN-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA) negotiations needs to be clarified.

Although Ms Sheedy's statement on page 39 suggests that the AANZFTA will include an IP chapter, the Committee should note that there has been no agreement to date to include an IP chapter in the AANZFTA. Currently the parties to the negotiation are discussing the benefits of including substantive IP provisions in the AANZFTA.

The action officer for this matter is Helen Daniels who can be contacted on 02 6250 6313.

Yours sincerely

Ian Govey
Acting Secretary

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1. The first part of the document is a list of names and addresses of the members of the committee. The names are listed in alphabetical order, and the addresses are listed below each name. The list includes the names of the members of the committee, the names of the members of the sub-committee, and the names of the members of the advisory committee. The addresses are listed in the same order as the names.